



SR county report #194

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JAMES B. HUNT JR.
GOVERNOR

DAVID MCCOY
SECRETARY

July 24, 2000

Mr. David L. S. Brook
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Ref EROO-8696
JUL 28 2000
RGE 8/8
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Dear Mr. Brook:

RE: B-3517, Surry County, Replace Bridge No. 52 on SR 1341 over the Fisher River, State Project # 8.2741601, Federal Aid # BRZ-1341(1)

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is conducting planning studies for the above-referenced project. Please find attached three copies of the Historic Architectural Resources Survey Report, which meets the guidelines for survey procedures for NCDOT and the National Park Service. This report concludes that there is one property within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) that is eligible for the National Register, the Bartholomew Hodges House.

Please review the survey report and provide us with your comments. If you have any questions concerning the accompanying information, please contact Ms. Mary Pope Furr, Historic Architecture Section, (919) 733-7844, ext.300.

Sincerely,

Mary Pope Furr
for Barbara H. Church, Supervisor
Historic Architecture Section

BHC/mpf
Attachment

Cc (w/ attachment): Gail Grimes, P.E., Assistant Branch Manager, PDEA
Nicholas Graf, P.E., Federal Highway Administration

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT
REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 52 ON SR 1341
OVER FISHER RIVER
SURRY COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TIP NUMBER B-3517
FEDERAL PROJECT NUMBER BRZ-1341(1)
STATE PROJECT NUMBER 8.2741601

Prepared for
Arcadis, Geraghty and Miller
Raleigh, North Carolina

Prepared by
Mattson, Alexander & Associates, Inc.
Charlotte, North Carolina

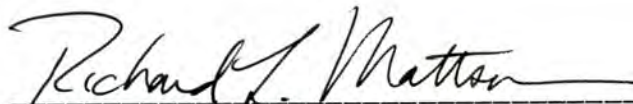
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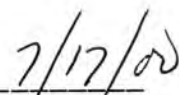
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Principal Investigator
Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc.


Date


Historic Architectural Resources
North Carolina Department of Transportation


Date

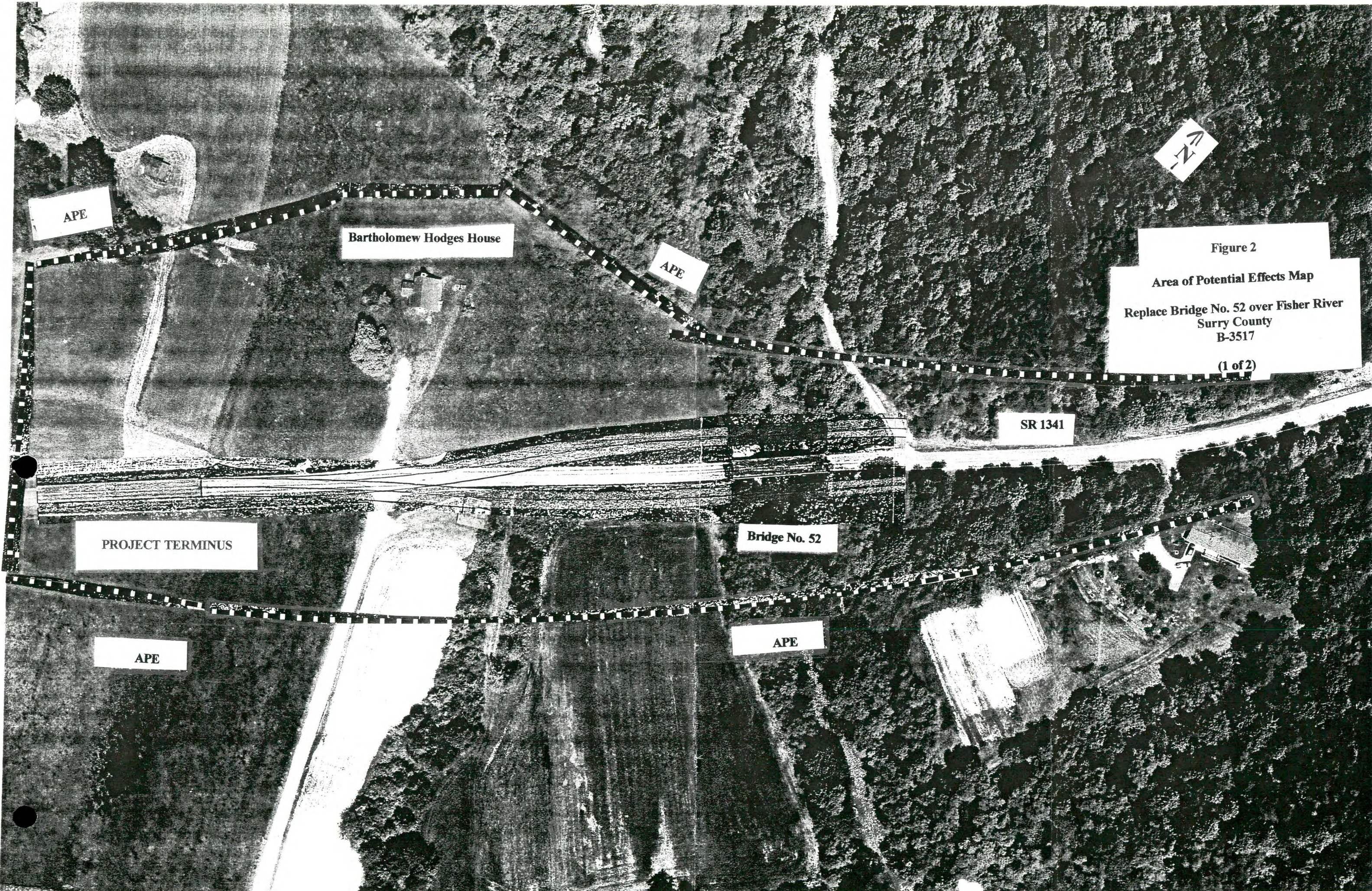
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The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to replace Bridge No. 52 with a two-lane span at the existing location on SR 1341 over the Fisher River in Surry County (Figures 1-2). The bridge is currently in poor condition and is classified as functionally obsolete. The structure has a current sufficiency rating of 34.7 with a remaining life of four years, Rehabilitation does not appear to be a feasible option because of its age and deteriorating condition. The replacement will result in a safer bridge consistent with federal and state bridge design standards. The alternatives that will be studied include:

1. Do nothing.
2. Replace existing bridge with a two-lane bridge at the existing location. There will be a temporary on-site detour north of the existing structure.
3. Replace existing bridge with a two-lane bridge at the existing location. There will be a temporary on-site detour south of the existing structure.
4. Replace existing bridge with a two-lane bridge at the existing location. There will be an off-site detour used during construction.

Purpose of Survey and Report

This survey was conducted and the report prepared in order to identify historical architectural resources located within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) as part of the environmental studies conducted by NCDOT and documented by a Categorical Exclusion (CE). This report is prepared as a technical appendix to the CE and as part of the documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that if a federally funded, licensed, or permitted project has an effect on a property listed in or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings.



APE

Bartholomew Hodges House

APE



Figure 2
Area of Potential Effects Map
Replace Bridge No. 52 over Fisher River
Surry County
B-3517
(1 of 2)

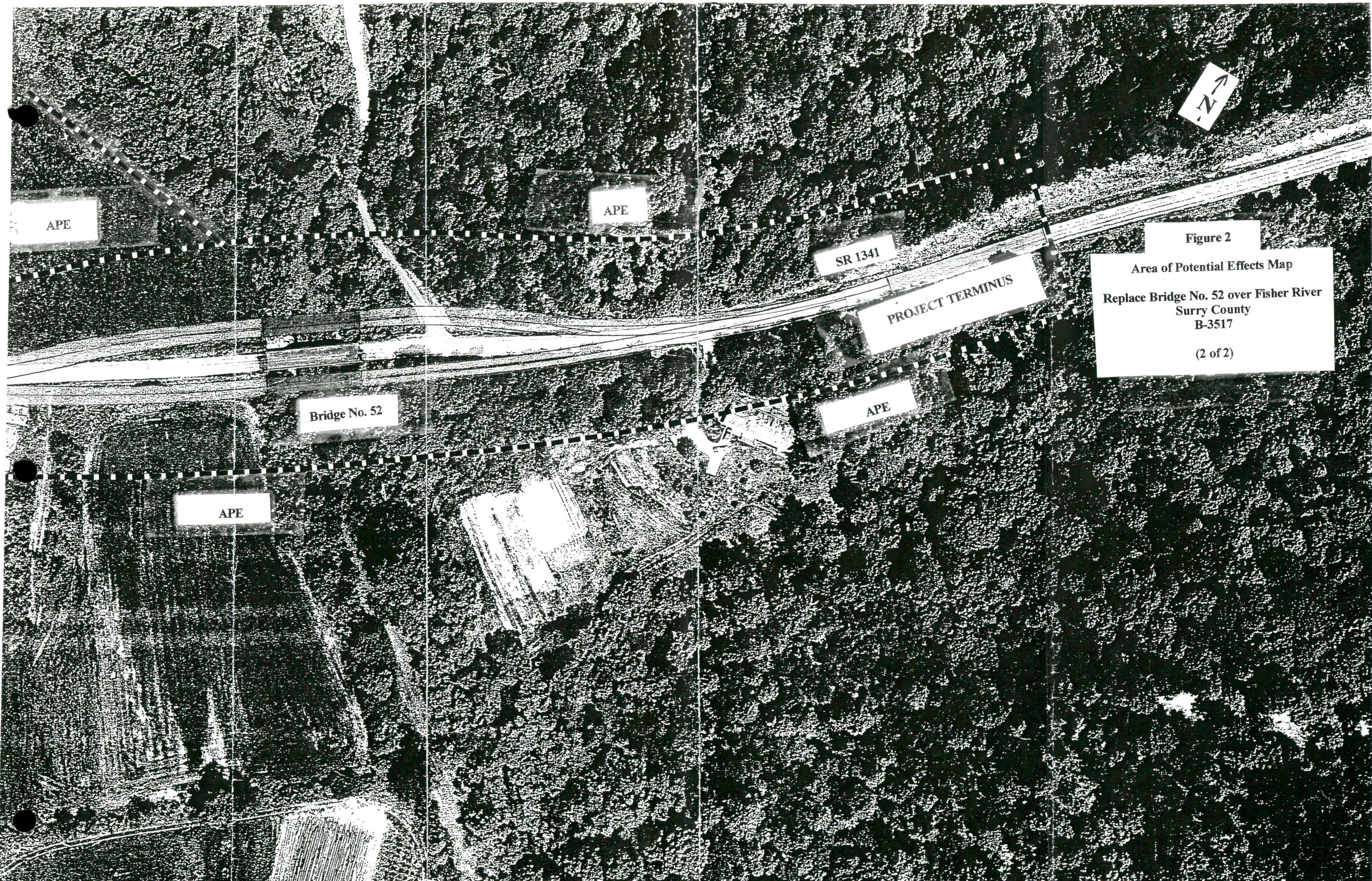
SR 1341

PROJECT TERMINUS

Bridge No. 52

APE

APE



APE

APE

SR 1341

PROJECT TERMINUS

Bridge No. 52

APE

APE

Figure 2

Area of Potential Effects Map
Replace Bridge No. 52 over Fisher River
Surry County
B-3517
(2 of 2)

Methodology

This survey was conducted and the report compiled in accordance with the provisions of FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A (Guidance for Preparing and Processing Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents); and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716); 36 CFR Part 800; 36 CFR Part 60; and Survey Procedures and Report Guidelines for Historic Architectural Resources by NCDOT.

The "Final Identification and Evaluation" was conducted with the following goals: 1) to determine the APE, defined as the geographic area or areas within which a project may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist; 2) to identify all significant resources within the APE; and 3) to evaluate these resources according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria.

The methodology consisted of background research into the historical and architectural development of the area and a field survey of the APE. The field survey was conducted in June 2000, by automobile as well as on foot, to delineate the APE and to identify all properties within this area which were built prior to 1950. The boundaries of the APE are shown on an aerial map of the project (Figure 2). One hundred percent of this area was surveyed.

In 1982, Ms. Laura Phillips conducted a comprehensive architectural inventory of Surry County. Ms. Phillips' survey report on the Bartholomew Hodges House (SR 505), which is located within the APE, is on file at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History in Raleigh. Phillips' county-wide inventory resulted in the 1987 publication, *Simple Treasures, The Architectural Legacy of Surry County* (Phillips 1987). This work, as well as the 1999 book, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Western North Carolina* (Bishir et al. 1999), provided background material on the overall historical and architectural development of Surry County.

Summary Findings of the Survey

The project area follows SR 1341 across Bridge No. 52 over the Fisher River in rural Surry County. This area is characterized by rolling pastures and woodland oriented to the river. One historic property, the Bartholomew Hodges House, was identified within the APE and was evaluated in the "Property Inventory and Evaluations" section of this report. The house (now vacant) and two associated log tobacco barns (both abandoned) stand in a large clearing southwest of Bridge No. 52, along the west side of SR 1341. A later, metal-sided pack house is sited near the house on Hodges land along the east side of the road. No other architectural resources fifty years of age or older are located within the APE.

Properties Listed on the National Register

None

Properties Listed on the North Carolina State Study List

None

Properties Considered Eligible for the National Register

Bartholomew Hodges House

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY

Settlers of mostly English and German origins began migrating into present-day Surry County during the mid-eighteenth century. They established small and middle-sized farms primarily along the bottom lands of the Yadkin River and its tributaries, particularly the Ararat, the Mitchell, and the Fisher rivers. Surry County was created from Rowan County in 1770, and the county's current borders were set in 1850, following the formation of Yadkin County from Surry. Although a small planter class emerged in the late eighteenth century, middling farmsteads characterized the county's agricultural economy well into the twentieth century (Corbitt 1950: 199; Bishir et al. 1999: 109-110; Phillips 1987: 5).

Typical of the North Carolina western piedmont, yeoman farmers striving for comfortable subsistence and possessing few or no slaves dominated the county's agrarian landscape before the Civil War. In 1830, only eleven percent of heads of households owned one or more slaves, and the great majority of these slave holders owned five or less slaves. By the eve of the Civil War, just two landowners held title to more than twenty slaves (Phillips 1987: 4).

Designated the county seat in 1850, the town of Dobson took shape as the principal political and commercial center. However, Dobson never acquired a railroad and its growth languished in the late nineteenth century, surpassed by the communities of Mount Airy and Elkin. In 1888, the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad arrived in Mount Airy to link the town with the state's major port of Wilmington via Fayetteville and Greensboro. The railroad triggered the tobacco, textile, and furniture industries, and encouraged the opening of the North Carolina Granite Corporation quarry near the edge of town. In 1890, the Northwestern North Carolina Railroad entered Elkin along the Yadkin River. This railroad connected Elkin east to Winston, and in 1893, the Chatham Manufacturing Company, maker of woolen goods, opened alongside the rail line as the town's key industry. With the new access to markets, Elkin flourished, and its population more than doubled between 1890 and 1896 (Phillips 1987: 5-6, 30-33; Bishir et al. 1999: 111-116; 121-123).

The arrival of the railroads also boosted commercial agriculture, and especially the production of bright-leaf tobacco. Sited at the southwestern edge of the Old Tobacco Belt, an area extending across the northern piedmont of North Carolina and Virginia, Surry County had grown some tobacco for market since the eighteenth century. However, cultivation of the crop soared during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries spurred on by the emergence of flue-cured, bright-leaf tobacco and the coming of rail transport. While farmers continued to raise livestock and a variety of crops, including corn, oats, wheat, rye, and potatoes, bright-leaf tobacco was the main cash staple. In the growing railroad towns, tobacco warehouses and manufacturing companies, such as the substantial Sparger Brothers Tobacco Company in Mount Airy, prospered beside the tracks (Bishir 1990: 303; Bishir et al. 1999: 109-110, 113).

In the latter twentieth century, improved roadways and the appeal of the county's bucolic beauty has generated tourism and residential and commercial development. Nevertheless, Surry County remains predominantly rural and

agrarian. Small farms continue to mark the rolling landscape drained by the south-flowing waterways leading into the Yadkin River (Phillips 1987: 6; Bishir et al. 1999: 109-110).

PROPERTY INVENTORY AND EVALUATIONS

Bartholomew Hodges House (SR 505)

Northwest side SR 1341, just south of Fisher River
Dobson vicinity, Surry County

Date of Construction

ca. 1805

Physical Description (Plates 1-13) (Figures 3-4)

The Bartholomew Hodges House is a substantially intact, one-and-a-half story, double-pen log dwelling with dry-laid, fieldstone exterior chimneys on the gable ends (Phillips 1987: 70). The half-dovetailed log walls are sheathed with rived weatherboards, many of which appear to be roughly contemporary with the construction of the house. The traditional form is distinguished by the wall overhangs which project slightly across the main elevations above the first story, and the pent eave which shelters the east (side) wall beneath the gable. (The pent roof no longer survives on the west wall). The date "1878" is scratched into the west chimney, while the east chimney is said to have been constructed ca. 1914. Exterior alterations include the construction of the frame rear ell ca. 1916, the replacement of the windows and doors probably in the 1920s, and the addition of the shed-roofed front porch with simple square posts during the twentieth century. The metal roofs were installed in the late 1980s, following damage inflicted by Hurricane Hugo.

The principal investigators were not able to gain access to the interior. However, the architectural inventory file on the property notes a log interior wall dividing the two log pens. Because the Hodges family occupied the house into the 1970s, the interior finish has been modified over the years. It has sheet-rocked walls, replacement wood flooring, and simple mantel shelves (Phillips 1982).

The Hodges tract also includes two half-dovetailed, log tobacco barns (no longer in use) constructed during the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. Sited at the edge of the clearing south of the house, they remain in stable condition. A later, metal-sided tobacco pack house (no longer in use) stands along the east side of SR 1341 opposite the house. Cleared fields and woodlands oriented to the Fisher River extend to the east. The tract includes no other historical outbuildings. Some modern dwellings are located on subdivided parcels amidst the fields east of SR 1341, along the roadway to the south of the Bartholomew Hodges House, and on the north side of the Fisher River.

Historical Background and Architecture Context

According to Hodges family tradition, Bartholomew Hodges erected this log house ca. 1805. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, it was the seat of a middling farmstead oriented to the Fisher River. Although now vacant, the house is in its fifth generation of Hodges ownership, and members of the family continue to maintain the property (Phillips 1982).

In rural Surry County and across the region, conservative building practices held sway into the early twentieth century. In particular, functional log

construction for farmhouses remained commonplace throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and persisted for certain outbuildings and some farm tenant housing after World War I. As circumstances changed, families also updated existing log houses with weatherboard or board-and-batten veneers, or expanded them with sizable frame additions. Like the ca. 1805 Bartholomew Hodges House, many were intended as permanent dwellings and displayed skilled notched-log construction and substantial fieldstone or brick chimneys. Such well-crafted, one-and-a-half or two-story log houses were hallmarks of the yeoman culture that flourished in the western piedmont of the state into the early twentieth century. While some of these log houses were embellished with the latest stylistic treatments, they typically followed traditional, practical plans that varied little over time (Phillips 1987: 7-10; Bishir et al.: 1999: 22-24).

Builders constructed log houses along customary lines. The basic unit varied little: a single, four-walled room, or "pen," that could be easily multiplied or partitioned into several smaller rooms (Jordan 1985: 23-30). Surry County contains a range of such log farmhouses. Perhaps the oldest is the late-eighteenth-century Robert James Hill House near Chinquapin Creek. The original dwelling consisted of a single, V-notched log room with a loft of heavy timber construction and a pegged floor. The batten front door has wrought-iron strap hinges and a wooden bolt. A half-dovetailed, log shed addition extends from the rear. Inside, the walls have vertical, beaded sheathing. The early-nineteenth-century Bray House near Copeland is a two-story, hall-parlor log dwelling with a fieldstone end chimney and batten doors. One of the finest two-story log houses in the county is the Butner-Moser House in Shoals Township. Built in the 1840s, this hall-parlor dwelling blends Federal and Greek Revival elements. The exterior features a molded cornice, nine-over-six windows with paneled shutters, and a brick end chimney. The interior has flush-board sheathing, a paneled wainscot, and slender, engaged columns supporting the mantel shelf. Located in the Rockford vicinity, the late-nineteenth-century Lacy Norman House typifies the simple, small log house in its unadorned, one-pen form with a side-gable roof, stone end chimney, and shed-roofed front porch (Phillips 1987: 7-10; Bishir 1990: 142-143).

Some of the county's larger log houses exhibit a double-pen plan, in which a single log pen was joined with another of roughly equal dimensions to double the size of the residence. The ca. 1830 Johnny Jones House in Eldora Township clearly illustrates the type. This one-and-a-half-story, double-pen dwelling has two exterior fieldstone chimneys and a central log partition. Originally the two log pens did not share interior doors on either level, necessitating two front doors and two separate stairs to the loft rooms (Phillips 1987: 10).

Within the APE, the ca. 1805, double-pen Bartholomew Hodges House is recognized to be among the most significant log houses in Surry County. One of the oldest remaining dwellings in the county, it is distinguished by the unusual wall overhangs. This feature, states architectural historian Laura Phillips, "is not found elsewhere in the county and is rare in North Carolina" (Phillips 1987: 9).

In addition to log houses, builders also constructed an assortment of log outbuildings for both domestic and agricultural uses. "Well into the twentieth century," observes Phillips, "many Surry County houses of non-log

construction were accompanied by log outbuildings--especially smokehouses and barns" (Phillips 1987: 11). Log construction was viewed as relatively quick, inexpensive, and sturdy, and thus well-suited for utilitarian buildings. Demonstrating the importance of bright-leaf tobacco farming, county farmers erected log tobacco-curing barns "by the thousands" (Phillips' phrase) in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Cave Family Farm near Dobson still holds a remarkably large number of both log and frame tobacco barns. Many double-crib log barns, were also constructed during the course of the nineteenth century, and a fine collection remains in the southeastern section of the county near the Yadkin River (Phillips 1987: 11; Bishir 1990: 155, 157; Bishir et al. 1999: 109-110).

Evaluation of Eligibility

The ca. 1805 Bartholomew Hodges House is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture. This traditional, double-pen log dwelling ranks among the oldest and finest examples of domestic log construction in Surry County.

The Hodges House is not considered eligible under any other criterion. The property is not eligible under Criterion A for agriculture because most of the agricultural outbuildings associated with the farm no longer survive. Although agricultural fields survive on the east side of SR 1341, the property does not represent significant historical patterns in the county's agricultural development. The Hodges House is not eligible under Criterion B because it is not associated with individuals whose activities were demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. Finally, the property is not considered eligible under Criterion D because the architectural component is not likely to yield information important in the history of building technology.

Boundaries

The proposed National Register boundaries include the Hodges House, the two log tobacco barns, and a portion of the clearing west of SR 1341 that defines the setting (Figure 4). Encompassing roughly nine acres, this area is marked by the existing northwest property line alongside the Fisher River, the tree line on the west side of the clearing, the right-of-way along SR 1341, and the farm lane south of the house that leads to the tobacco barns. The recommended boundaries exclude the more recent packhouse and fields east of SR 1341, and the sections of cleared land and woods on the northwest side of that complete the existing acreage of the property. The two log tobacco barns, which were built in the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, are non-contributing resources.



Plate 1. Hodges House and Setting, Looking North towards Fisher River along SR 1341.



Plate 2. Hodges House, Looking West from the Vicinity of Bridge No. 52.



Plate 3. Hodges House, Front and East Elevations, Looking West.



Plate 4. Hodges House, Front and West Elevations, Looking Southeast.



Plate 5. Hodges House, East Elevation, Looking West.



Plate 6. Hodges House, Rear Elevation, Looking Northeast.



Plate 7. Hodges House, Log Notching Detail, Looking West.



Plate 8. Hodges House, Fieldstone Chimney Detail on West Elevation with Etched Date, "1878."



Plate 9. View Looking Northeast from Hodges House towards Fisher River and Bridge No. 52.



Plate 10. View Looking South from Hodges House towards Farm Lane and SR 1341.



Plate 11. View Looking Southwest from Hodges House towards Log Tobacco Barns at the Edge of the Clearing.



Plate 12. Log Tobacco Barn, Looking Southwest.



Plate 13. View Looking South along SR 1341 (South of Fisher River)
Depicting Right-of-Way.

Figure 3

Bartholomew Hodges House
Site Plan

(not to scale)

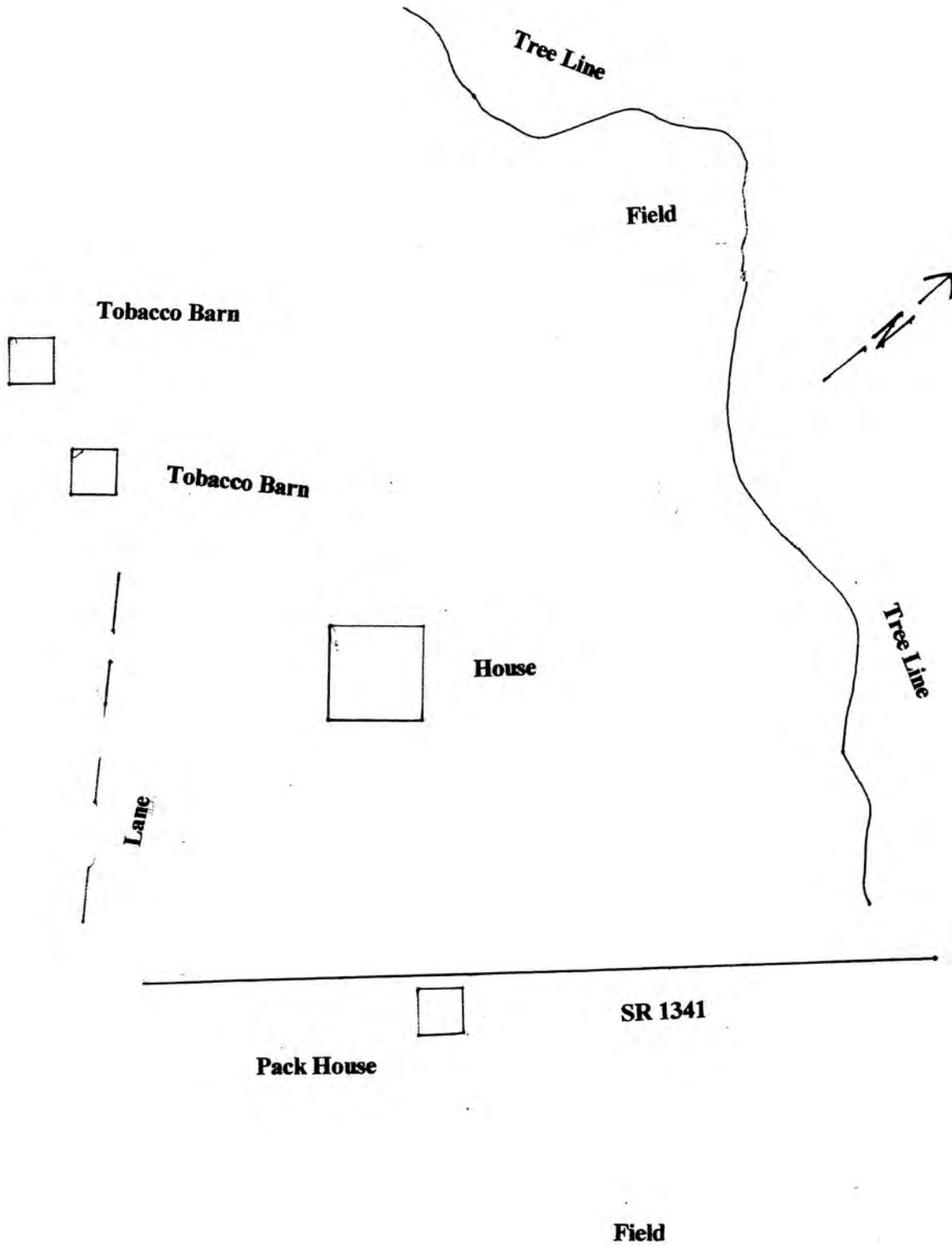




Figure 4
 Bartholomew Hodges House
 Recommended National Register Boundaries
 Scale—1" = 100'

BRIDGE #52 OVER FISHER RIVER
 PROJECT NO: 8.2741601
 TIP NO: R-3517

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